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chaidh (*Anglice* Achy) is explained by that learned Irish scholar, John O'Donovan, Esq., LL.D., who has written, in a note to the *Leabhar-na-g-Ceart*, "this name is Irish, and denotes *equus*, horseman." Hence, we see that the expression *horse-marine* was not in its inception, as it is now supposed to be, a modern Irish bull. It was nearly the English for *Eochaidh-uairceas*, the very appropriate name of an Irish king, about 2462 years ago.

THE ANCIENT FABRIC, PLATE, AND FURNITURE

OF THE

CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST CHURCH, WATERFORD;

ILLUSTRATED BY ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED BY THE VERY REV. EDWARD NEWENHAM HOARE, D.D., DEAN OF WATERFORD.

BY THE REV. JAMES GRAVES, A.B.

A GLANCE at the plan and elevations of the cathedral of Waterford, as we find them given in Harris' edition of Ware's "Bishops," and an inspection of the ancient and highly curious oil painting of the interior of the same structure, still preserved as an heir-loom of the see, in the episcopal palace of Waterford, prove incontestably that the "urbs intacta" possessed a cathedral surpassing in size, picturesqueness of outline, and richness of style any structure of the kind in Ireland.

The plan of this noble Gothic church was irregular, and it had received in the course of time many additions. The original structure seems to have consisted of an Early English nave and choir (with side-aisles to both) and a lofty tower built about mid-way on the northern side, and spanning the north aisle; the nave was forty-five, the choir sixty-six feet in length, with clere-stories to both. Eastward of the choir projected the parish church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, exhibiting a fine Decorated window at its eastern end. Two Decorated chapels, St. Saviour's and another, adjoined the west end of the nave, running parallel beside, and opening into the side-aisles by a series of arches, thus giving the nave at its western extremity a width of sixty-six feet, and affording a noble perspective of columns and arcades. Two small chapels to the south of the Trinity or parish church appear to have been Early English in character; whilst Rice's chapel and the chapter-house to the north were in the Perpendicular style.

The corporation of Waterford seem, from an early age, to have been mixed up in a very curious way with the property of the chapter.¹ They were bound to contribute towards the sustentation of the

¹ Ryland's *History of Waterford*, pp. 131-4.

structure, and whilst the civic body was accountable to the dean and chapter for certain rents, they seem also to have had some control over the property of the cathedral, as we find them, in the year 1535, giving permission to the dean and chapter to grant leases for a term of sixty years. Shortly after this period the connexion between the two bodies corporate was still further complicated: the chapter finding the rich store of crosses, chalices, monstrances, and other plate, which their church had possessed from olden time, to be superfluous after the time of the Reformation, made them over to the corporation, under certain conditions, which not having been fulfilled by the latter, a law suit was the consequence. In the following document, transcribed from the original in the dean of Waterford's possession, the case is fully stated, and a curious list of the cathedral plate is also given. This interesting record runs as follows:—

25 May, 1637.

By the Lord Deputie and Councill.

RICHARD JONES, late Deane
of Waterford,

Plt.;

The MAYOR, SHERIFFES and
CITIZENS of Waterford,

Defendts.

WENTWORTH.

Upon full hearing of this cause, in the p'sence of the councill of both sides, there was produced to this Board a copie of a writinge, dated the 10th of June, 1577, by wh^{ch} writinge the Deane and Chapter of the Cathedrall Church of the Holy Trinity, of the Cittie of Waterford, did, among other things, give, grant, bargaine, sell and confirme to the Mayor, Sheriffes and Citizens of the County of the Cittie of Waterford, and to theare successors, the parcellls following, viz^t. :—Two candlesticks of silver guilt, weighing foure score ounces; more, two candlesticks of silver parcel guilt, weighing one hundred and five ounces; more, a standing cupp of silver double guilt, weighing twenty-eight ounces; more, a crosse of silver double guilt, weighing one hundred and twenty-six ounces; more, five cencers of silver, whereof two are parcel guilt, weighing two hundred and eleaven ounces; more, a monstrant with two angells of silver guilt, weighing forty-nine ounces; more, a portorall of silver guilt, weighing sixteene ounces; more, seaven chalices of silver guilt, weighing one hundred and eight ounces; more, two crewetts of silver, weighing twelve ounces, the whole sune amounting to seaven hundred foure-score and foure ounces, after the rate of five shillings the ounce. Which copie was attested by John Lee and Peter Strange, towne clerkes of Waterford, and affidavit made at this board that it was a true copie of the originall remaineing wth the defend^{ts}, and it further appeared by an obligation sealed with the common seale of the said Cittie, and bearing date the twelfth of June, 1577, that the Mayor, Sheriffes and Citizens of Waterford, and theire successors, were bound vnto the said Deane and Chapter, and theire successors, in the sune of foure hundred pounds ster. The condicion of wh^{ch} obligation was, that if the said Mayor, Sheriffes and Citizens of Waterford, and theire successors, when soever the said Deane and Chapter, or theire successors, should bee impleaded for the Churches right, or lands, should, notwithstanding, give them from tyme to tyme soe much of the value of the said Jewells as should maintaine theire pleas by Law in defence of theire said right, just title and interest, and also if the said Deane and Chapter should afterwards labour or purchase any Liveings for the vse and maintenance of the said church, that then the said Mayor, Sheriffes and Citizens should give them of the value of the said Jewells soe remaineing in theire hands vndisbursed for the uses aforesaid, when they should bee by them required, soe much as they must lay out and disburse for the said purchase, and also (if it should so come to passe) that ever afterwards either the Queenes

Ma'tie that then was, or her highness' most noble heirs or successors should at any tyme afterward allow of any the like Jewells to bee vsed and occupied in the Church, if then the said Mayor, Sheriffes and Citizens, and their successors, should buy for y^e vse of the said church soe many and such Jewells and ornaments as the said Deane and Chapter and their successors should require them to the value remaining in their custodie, vndisbursed and layd out as before, of the said Jewells, that then the obligation to bee voyd and of none effect, otherwise to stand in full force and vigour in Law. The Jewells aforesaid, weighed, did amount to seaven hundred foure score and foure ounces, and alsoe the price agreed vpon, at five shillings sterling le ounce, amounted to the sune of one hundred foure score and eightene pounds ster. And for that it appears not that y^e Defend^{ts} have disbursed any parte of the value of the said plate and Jewells according to y^e condicions of the said bond or obligacion; It is, therefore, ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the Defend^{ts} shall forthwith, at their owne proper costs and charges, provide for the vse of the said Church and God's Service therein, seaven hundred foure score and foure ounces of silver plate, London touch, of such forme and fashion as by the Reverend father in God, the Lord Bpp. of Waterford and Lismore, and the Deane and Chapter of the said Church (whom wee pray and require to take speciall care thereof) shall bee thought fitt and the same soe provided to deliver to the Deane and Chapter of the said Church for the vse aforesaid. And for as much as the Plt. hath to his great cost and charges for almost dureing a yeare of his Incumbency there, for more than three yeares since hee left to bee Deane of the said church, prosecuted this Suite, only for y^e common good of the said church without having any contribution from any of the said church; It is, therefore, ordered that hee shall recover against the Defend^{ts} the sune of fifty pounds, which the Defend^{ts} are to pay to y^e Plt. or his assignees vpon sight of this our order. Lastly, whereas it was alledged that Richard Butler, Esq., now Mayor of the said Cittie, hath in his custoddie certain Copes and Vestments belonging to the said Church, It is ordered that hee shall forthwith deliver the same vnto the said Lord Bpp., Deane and Chapter, or some of them, or els vpon sight or notice hereof to appeare before vs to shew cause to the contrary.

JA. ARMACHANUS; R. CORKE;

R. DILLON; GERRARD LOWTHER;

GEO. RADCLIFFE.

A true copie.

MA. BARRY.

The restoration by the mayor of the copes and vestments enjoined by the peremptory Strafforde, and no doubt carried into effect, is an interesting fact. Of the seven hundred and eighty-four ounces of plate which the corporation was compelled to purchase for the cathedral on this occasion, the chapter was subsequently allowed to sell part for the purpose of purchasing thirty pounds per annum in tithes for the repair of the choir; and in the November of the same year (1637) the corporation bound themselves to repair the cathedral in consideration of free burial being secured to the citizens within the walls of the building.¹

During this period, and, indeed, we may say, to the day when Waterford fell before one officer, a sergeant, and thirty men of Ireton's forces,² the cathedral had retained all its ancient ecclesiastical furniture, tombs, sepulchral brasses, organs and bells. The documents which I am now able to lay before the Society give ample

¹ Ryland's *History of Waterford*, p. 136.

² The name of the officer and sergeant is preserved in Orrery's "Memoirs." It was Croker. They were brothers, and having been sent, with thirty musketeers, to burn the suburbs, they took advantage of the

panic produced amongst the townsmen by the volumes of smoke rolled into the city by a south-west wind, scaled the walls and seized the main guard. In this daring action the officer in command was slain, but his brother, the sergeant, kept his men toge-

proof of this, and at the same time afford us a glimpse of the splendour of this fine old pile ere it was desecrated and despoiled by fanatical cupidity. Who but must regret the loss of its "great eagle of massy brasse;" of its brazen "great standing pelican to support the Bibles;" of its "two great standing candlesticks of about a man's height of massy brasse," besides its "branched" ones of the same costly metal; of its "fonte" supported on a "pedestal and pillors," and "to be ascended vnto by three degrees or staires," together with its "cover of massy brasse;" of the numerous "brasses, eschocheons, and atchements" torn from "the ancient tombes, many of which were almost covered with brasse;" of its "brazen grate" for charcoal, sculptured with the "Lumbardes armes," altogether amounting to the enormous weight of sixty tons, not to speak of "ye greate paire of organs," whose broken pipes Andrew Rickards saw amongst the plunder at the custom house. Shame on the Kilkenny man, Nicholas Phary, of Carrickganarrake, by name, who with his wife betrayed the secret "vault under ground in Christ's Church" where they were hidden! The "steeple house" itself, too, had a narrow escape from the calculating rapacity of one Samuel Wade, who told the commissioners that "they might have seven hundred pounds for its materials."

After the Restoration an endeavour was made to compel the Cromwellians to disgorge their ill-gotten plunder; the nature of these proceedings will be understood from the subjoined petition of the dean and chapter, and from the depositions taken by a commission issued thereupon by the Irish house of lords. The documents are transcribed from a contemporary copy of the petition and from the original parchment roll of the depositions, both in the keeping of the dean of Waterford:—

To the most Hon^{ble} the Lords Spirituall and Temporall now assembled by his Maties Comand in the High Court of Parliament of Ireland.

The most humble Peticion of the Deane and Chapter of Waterford,

Sheweth that the Cathedrall Church of Waterford had beyond the memory of man left in it one great Eagle of Massy Brasse, one Pellican of Massy Brasse to support the Bibles in the said Church, two great standing Candlesticks, about man's height, of Massy Brasse; one fonte to be ascended vnto by three degrees or staires of Massy Brasse, the pedestall and pillor^s vpon w^{ch} the fonte did stand of Massy Brasse; the cover to the said fonte being of Massy Brasse, being the goodly monuments of the devotion of our pious ancesto^{rs}.

That when the City of Waterford was taken by Vsurped Pow^{rs} in the yeare 1651, the said vtensils were sacraleiciously seized vpon by Collonell Thomas Sadler and publicly sold and shipped away beyond the seas, with all the Eschocheons and Atchements of the ancient Tombes, many of which were almost covered with brass.

Your petition^r humbly pray that the said Collonell Thomas Sadler may be called to answer to the sd. sacraleigious actes, and vpon due profe of the sd. accions be compelled by this most hono^{ble} Court to make restitution of the said Church vtensills and

ther, and opening the west gate, marched out, brandished his sword about his head, and called for the whole army to march in; "for," said he, "the town is our own."

The citadel held out for some days longer, but was surrendered to Ireton on the 10th of August, 1650.—Smith's *History of Waterford*, second edition, p. 147.

ornaments according to his Majesty's will and pleasure in his late gracious declaration, and be farther ord^d according as this most hono^{ble} court shall thinke convenient to the present state and condition of affaires.

And your Pet^{rs} shall alwayes pray, &c.

JO. KEATING,

Dep. Cler. Parl.

Depositions¹ taken at Dublin the twenty-fifth day of J[. . .] sixty and one, before Standish Hartstonge and Jo[. . .] to vs and others directed, returneable into the [. . .] and Temporall in this p'sent Parliament assembled [. . .].

Minard Christian, of Waterford, gent., aged fifty-five years or [. . .] deposeth as followeth, That at the surrender of the Citty of Waterford to [. . .] store of Brass was put into the Store by Coll. Sadler's ord^{rs}, whoe was then Governor [. . .] which Brass was taken out of the church from of the Tombes, Gravesstones and [. . .] best remembrance the two brazen Candlesticks were there. And further deposeth [. . .] tyme of his, this deponents being there, there was the great standing Pellican and the brazen [. . .] and the great Brass Font wth its Cover and the pedestal thereof found in a vault under g[round . . .] And was sold by Major Andrew Rickards (whoe was the towne Major vnd^r Coll. Sadler) to M^r Lap, and Ffrancis Sampson; he further sayeth that in the tyme of this deponent's being in Waterford there were severall Priests taken in their Mass houses, and in Irishmen's houses [. . .] thereabout, was with great store of plate, viz^t Chalice, Sawcers, and Ritch Coaps, as rich as ever he saw in Spain, wth silver Lamps, and silver Chaines, with gold Rings and other Plate to the value of one hundred and fifty pounds ster. or more, all sold and disposed of by Coll. Sadler, Coll. Lawrence, Coll. Lee, Capt^a. Wade, and in the tymes of their being Governo^{rs} and [Deputy] Governo^{rs} there, and that in Coll. Lee's tyme of government there were great store [. . .] taken out of the churches, and layed vpon the key to mend it therwith, and some to p[. . .].

MINARD CHRISTIAN.

Capt. coram nobis die et loco p'dict.

STANDISH HARTSTONGE.

(
L.S.
)

J. EYRE.

(
L.S.
)

Depositions taken at the Citty of Waterford the first day of August, one thousand six hundred and sixty and one, before William Bolton, Robert Taylor, and Standish Hartstonge, Esqrs., by virtue of his Majesty's commission returneable vnto the most hono^{ble} house of Lords in Parliam^t assembled, to vs and others directed as followeth:—

William Powell, aged two and thirty yeares, or thereabouts, duly sworne and examined, deposeth as followeth:—

Imprimis.—This Deponent sayth that in October following the surrender of this Citty [. . .] Thomas Goose of this Citty asked this Deponent whether he would buy any Brass [. . .] answered vnto him that he would if it were for his turne, wherevpon the said Goose [brought] this Deponent vnto a celler neare the key of the Citty, and there shewed this deponent and [profered] to him to sale a cover of a ffont of Massy Brass about three foot in diameter [. . .] which this Deponent he knew it to be the cover of the font of Christ's Church, and alsoe [. . .] other peeces of Brass, which he this Deponent p'ceived to be taken of the Tombstones by the [. . .] on the back side thereof, which this Deponent sayd were not for his turne, and refused [. . .] them and further deposeth not.

WILL. [POWELL].

¹ These depositions are copied from the skins of parchment. The upper part of original roll under seal, written on three this roll is much eaten away by mice.

John Lapp of the City of Waterford, Esqr., aged forty-two yeares, or thereabouts, [.] examined, deposeth as followeth :—

That about nine yeares since he this Deponent having a ship freighted [as well as] this Deponent remembereth to Marseilles there was a Publique canting of [.] Brass, to which this Deponent repaired, where were put to sale these p'cells following, Two Eagles of Massy Brass, a ffont of Copper or Brass, one branched candel-sticke of Brass, w^{ch}, as this Deponent remembereth, at nine pence farthing φ pound, came vnto the sume of betweene fifty and sixty pounds ster. which was bought by the ord^r. of this Deponent, for that he was vnwilling they should be broke in pieces and sold by the then p'tended Commiss^{rs}, whose names this Deponent as he remembereth to be, were Coll. Richard Laurence, Edward Roberts, late Audito^{rs}; Captⁿ. Samuell Wade, Mr. Robert Ffawcett, and Captⁿ. William Holsy, and further deposeth not.

JOHN LAPP.

William Summers of Passage, aged fifty-seven yeares, or thereabouts, sworne and examined, deposeth as followeth :—

That there was a p'cell of Brass, wherein there was an Eagle and other things brought unto the Store when Coll. Laurence was governor, and that the said Brass was in weight, as this Deponent remembereth, one thousand two hundred weight, he, this Deponent, being clerke und^r John Bryant keeper of the Store, and sayth it was put to sale at a publique canting, and bought by Ffrancis Sampson, and Mr. John Lapp at nine pence farthing φ pound.

WILL. SUMMERS.

Nicholas Phary, Wheelright, of Carrickganarrake, in the county of Kilkenny, aged [.] six yeares or thereabouts, sworne and examined, deposeth as followeth :—

That this Deponent about nine yeares since, found out by the information of an Irish Woeman that great quantity of Brass were hid up in a vault under ground in Christ's Church which this Deponent informed Coll. Laurence, then Governor, whoe beleevved not this Deponent, but Mr. Roberts, Mr. Robert Ffawcett, and Captⁿ. William Holsy being commiss^{rs} then did seize of it and caused it to be delivered into the Store, and then exposed it to sale at nine pence farthing φ pound, and this Deponent remembereth that there was one thousand and two hundred weight thereof, he, this Deponent, being then messenger to the said commiss^{rs}. The severall p'cells as this Deponent remembereth were three holy water pots of Brass, an Eagle, a Pelican, severall Standing Candlesticks, one Branched Candlestick, a Censer and other things, the names he cannot now remember, there were also severall Bells and the Brass ffont and Cover in the said Store under the keeping of John Bryant and William Summers, being then Store-keepers to the said commiss^{rs}, and Mr. John Houghton was then clerke to the said commiss^{rs}, and further deposeth not, only Mr. John Houghton found out some store of plate belonging to Christ's Church, at Kilmaden, within fower miles of Waterford, but what became of it this Deponent knoweth not.

NICO. PHARY.

Anne Phary, the wife of Nicholas Phary, of Carrickeganarragh, aged forty-four yeares, or thereabouts, saith :—

That y^e great paire of Organs in Christ's Church in Waterford, were pulled downe in the tyme while Coll. Sadler was Governor, and she have heard by his ord^{rs}, but never did see it, and that Major Andrew Rickards was Towne Major: at that tyme he tooke the whole account of all the goods, both Church goods and others, that were to be disposed of in the T[.]. And she heard that the said Major Rickards tooke p'ticular account of the Organs. For the tyme she remembreth it to be about eleven yeares since.

AN. PHARY, her A m^{rk}.

Capt. coram nobis die et loco p'dict.

WM. BOLTON.

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L.S.

STANDISH HARTSTONGE.

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L.S.

ROBERT TAYLOR.

(
L.S.

Depositions taken at the City of Waterford, the tenth day of August, one thousand six hundred sixty and one, before William Bolton and Robert Taylor, Esq^{rs}., by vertue of her Maties commission retournable unto the moste honorable House of Lords in Parliament assembled, to us and others directed as followeth :—

Andrew Rickards, of the City of Waterford, Esq^r., aged thirty-nine yeares, or thereabouts, being duly sworne and examined, saith :—

That about the year 'fifty, he, this deponent being Towne Major of this Citty, did see two Eagles of Brass, two Candle-stikes of Brass, sould by the authority of Collonell Saddler, Capt. Wade, Capt. Halsey, and some others who were then commiss^{rs}, and further saith, that aboute the same time hee saw amonge some other Brass sould at the Custom House, or at the House where the Brass Eagles were sould, some broken pieces of the Organ pipes which weare alsoe sould by the authority aforesaid, and farther saith not.

ANDREW RICKARDS.

John Houghton, of the City of Waterford, Esq^r., aged thirty-nine years, or thereabouts, being duly sworne and examined, saith :—

That about the years 'fifty-one or 'fifty-two, hee saw in the custody of one William Summers, in the publike Store House, several peeces of Twoome Brass, an Eagle of Brass, and some small brass bells belonging to the Churches and Hospitals of this Citty, which were sould by the then p'sent power, and further saith not.

JOHN HOUGHTON.

Richard Meyler, of the City of Waterford, Apothecary, aged sixty-four years, or thereabouts, being duly sworne and examined, saith :—

That the City of Waterford was delivered to Henry Ireton, the tenth of August, one thousand six hundred and fifty, and that Collonell Saddler was by him appointed Governor of the same, and that att that time the Cathedrall Church was in very good repaire, haveing in it severall rich Ornaments and Utenselles, vizt. an Eagle of massy Brass, a Pelican of Massy Brass, two greate standing candle-stikes, a lardge vessell of Massy Brass, with the Lumberts armes on it, wherein charcole usually was kept, a ffontt of Massy Brass and the covers of many monuments of Massy Brass, and two setts of Organs, all web were sacraligious taken away and sould by the then Authority. And further saith that he, this Deponent, was afterwards present in the tyme of Coll. Leigh's being Governor of this Citty, when a Commission was read in the Commission^{rs} chamber for the leavying or laying out of the sum of four hundred pounds for the repaire of the Cathedrall Church, when Samuel Wade, one of the Commission^{rs}, said that it was better for them to pull down the said Cathedrall, for that they might have seven hundred pounds for the materials of it, rather then to goe to repaire such a steeple house, and that the Blackfryers was sufficiently bigg enough to receave theire congregation, and that one Mr. Watts, another of the said com^{rs}, declared that though theire congregation was then but small, yet it might hereafter be larger and require a bigger meeting-place; whereupon that motion of Wade's ceased. And further saith that he hath seen some of the Church ornaments in Collonell Sadler's house; and further saith not.

RICHARD MEYLER.

Ffradcham Lond of the City of Waterford, Water Bayliffe, aged sixty-one yeares, or thereabouts, being duly sworne and examined, saith :—

That that yeare in web the Citty was taken there was tenn or eleven hundred weight of the Toome Brass, beeloning to the Cathedrall Church, brought into this Deponents custody, he being then store-keeper, by order of the then commiss^{rs}, who were Coll. Saddler, Capt. Wade, Lieut. Collonell Wheeler, and some others whose names he does not well remember. And saith that the said Brass was taken away from this Deponent by the said commiss^{rs}, order, and accordingly disposed of. And farther saith that the Organs of the said Cathedrall were also disposed of by ye said commiss^{rs}. And further saith not.

FFRADCHAM LOND.

Thomas Goose, of the City of Waterford, Broker, aged sixty yeares, or thereabouts, being duly sworne and examined, saith :—

That he cannot declare anything of his owne knowledge concerning the sacriligious taking away of the Vtensells and Ornaments of the Cathedrall Church of this Citty. And further saith not.

THOMAS GOOSE.

Capt. coram nobis die et loco p'dict.

WILLIAM BOLTON.

(
L.S.
)

ROBERT TAYLOR.

(
L.S.
)

That a portion of the £400, proposed to be levied for repairing the cathedral, during Col. Leigh's governorship, was duly expended thereon, appears from the original account existing amongst the chapter records, and headed as follows:—

A note of what moneyes hath been disbursed by Thomas Watts, Esq^r., for ye repairing of ye Public Meeting place in Waterford. By vertue of a commission from ye com^{rs} of state to William Leigh, Capt. William Halsie, Samuell Wade, and Francis Vaghan, Esq^{rs}., as followeth.

The account is too long to insert at full length, but I have extracted some of the items as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Henry Outlaw for twenty thousand of slats att 9s. per thousand			
ye 10th of May	09	00	00
Paid John German for mending the gutters, May ye 30th, '56	00	09	05
Paid Walter Cranfield and labourer to cleane ye meeting-place, ye 30th of May, '56	01	19	11
Paid to Henry Outlaw for ten thousand of slatts, ye 25th of June, '56	04	10	00
Paid to Richard Fairewether for two thousand of slats, ye 25th of June, '56	00	18	00
Paid to William Price and Devorix Poell, slatters, 24th of July, '56	24	00	00
Paid John German for mending ye gutters of ye Church Battlements, ye 2nd of August, '56	00	08	06
Paid to William Price for whitening the Church ye 29th of May, '56	03	00	00
Paid Mr. William Cooper for four dozen and a-half of Ridge tiles	02	04	09

The "summa totalis" of the account, from which the above extracts are taken, amounts to £214 1s. 0d. The carpentry comes to £50, William Holes was thirty-six days overseeing the work, and the wages of masons and labourers forms a large sum.

Although thus stripped of its ancient monuments and furniture, the fabric of the cathedral of Christ Church appears to have remained intact, except so far as the course of time laid its heavy hand thereon, until the year 1773, when it suffered the fate which Samuel Wade had designed for it more than an hundred years before, there being then no one, as honest Mr. Watts did on the former occasion, to plead for a reprieve. It is said, indeed, on the authority of local tradition that the bishop of the diocess long refused to sign the death warrant of the noble old pile, paying little attention to the frequent hints he received of the insecurity of the fabric. At last, however, the demolitionists hit on a lucky thought. As the bishop was coming out of the cathedral one Sunday morning, a person, mounted on the roof for that purpose, let fall a shower of rubbish close to his lordship, whilst others of the conspirators, *accidentally* present, took care so to *improve* on this text, that the bishop's fears got the better of his good taste, and accordingly, "at a meeting of a committee appointed by

the council of the corporation, held on the 14th of July, 1773, and assisted by the Bishop of Waterford, and the Dean and Chapter, it was resolved, that the old Cathedral Church should be taken down and a new one built in its place."¹

"It is a matter of sincere regret to many who recollect the ancient edifice," continues the writer already quoted, "that the profane hands of the last generation should have violated this beautiful remnant of antiquity. It was stated, as a plea for destroying the old building, that it was become so much decayed, as to be judged unsafe for the purposes of public worship; but there is some reason to doubt the correctness of this opinion, not only from the acknowledged strength of all the ancient churches, but also from the extreme difficulty which the workmen experienced in effecting its demolition."² No one can concur more heartily in the laudable sentiments of the Rev. Mr. Ryland than the present dean, whose anxious care is exercised to preserve every relic of antiquity connected with the cathedral which has escaped the ruthless hands of the destroyer. To his kindness the Society is indebted for the use of the ancient manuscripts which give to this brief memoir any interest it may possess; and it may not be amiss to state, that in his keeping the cathedral records are preserved with that intelligent care and solicitude which such invaluable documents always deserve, but, I grieve to say, seldom receive.

THE LOCAL ANTIQUITIES OF BUTTEVANT.

BY RICHARD R. BRASH, ESQ.

IN the following paper I propose calling attention to the local antiquities of the town and neighbourhood of Buttevant, which contain many objects of archæological interest. I have endeavoured to collect the historical notices connected with these localities, and to arrange them in connexion with the objects I propose to describe. These notices I confess are scant and meagre for a place of so much historical and antiquarian importance, but I trust the effect of this and all similar papers will be, to stimulate the zealous inquiry of those who have access to manuscripts and rare documents, that they may effectively follow up those investigations which others may have but commenced.

Buttevant, a post and market town in the barony of Orrery and Kilmore, and county of Cork, is situated in a beautiful and fertile country at the foot of the Ballyhowra mountains, and on the banks of the Awbeg (little river). These mountains are celebrated by the

¹ Ryland's *History of Waterford*, p. 145.

² *Id. Ibid.*